

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 9 and 34 to 36 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

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41. (New) A method of loading a stent on a delivery catheter comprising:

providing a delivery catheter having proximal and distal ends and a distal portion adjacent the distal end, the distal portion having a diameter;

providing a stent having a length;

radially compressing at least a portion of the stent from a pre-compression diameter to a post-compression diameter, the post-compression diameter being less than the diameter of the distal portion of the stent; and

mounting the stent in the post-compression diameter onto the distal portion of the delivery catheter without further compressing the stent.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of providing the delivery catheter comprises providing a balloon catheter.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the mounting step further comprises providing a means for radial containment of the stent.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein, in the step of providing the stent, the stent comprises metal.